

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 3-8 have been added by the present amendment. The additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 3, 2003, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)(2) since certain "foreign patent documents" were not received; the specification was objected to as failing to include a reference to the parent application; and Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of related U.S. Patent No. 6,651,894.

Regarding the objection to the IDS filed September 3, 2003, Applicants note that 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) does not require that copies of the documents listed in the IDS be submitted since the documents were previously submitted in parent application 10/006,715, filed December 10, 2001. The IDS filed September 3, 2003, clearly identified that the documents had previously been submitted. Accordingly, the objection to the IDS is believed to have been overcome.

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to have been overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is rendered moot by the present cancellation of Claims 1 and 2.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 3-8 for examination on the merits. New Claims 3-8 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new

matter.¹ Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 3-8 are patentably distinct from the inventions claimed in Claims 1 and 2 of related U.S. Patent No. 6,651,894.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

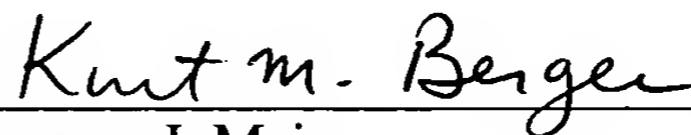
Respectfully submitted,

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¹ See pages 38-51 of the specification and Figures 13, 14, and 17.